

*Amendments to the Claims*

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

*Listing of Claims:*

1 - 5. Canceled.

6. (*Currently Amended*) The buffer according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 14, further comprising:

a rotary damper fixed to one end portion of the slider which is provided with the buffering member on the other end portion, a pinion gear fixed to a rotation axis of the rotary damper; and

a rack fixed to the case body; wherein

the pinion gear and the rack are meshed with each other.

7. - 10. Canceled.

11. (*Withdrawn/Currently Amended*) The buffer according to claim ~~[[3]]~~ 14, further comprising:

an adjustment mechanism for adjusting the position of the brake plate in the width direction of the case body, wherein the adjustment mechanism has a plurality of projecting portions which are provided on first and second surfaces, respectively, of the brake plate, and

elongated bored grooves which are provided in a surface portion of the attachment recessed portion of the case body, with which the plurality of projecting portions which are provided on the second surface is slidably engaged.

12. *(Withdrawn/Currently Amended)* The buffer according to claim [[3]] 14, further comprising:

an adjustment mechanism for adjusting the position of the brake plate in the width direction of the case body, wherein the adjustment mechanism has a first bevel gear attached to the case body; and

a second bevel gear which is rotatably meshed with the bevel-gear surface of the first bevel gear.

13. *(Withdrawn/Currently Amended)* The buffer according to claim [[3]] 14, further comprising:

an adjustment mechanism for adjusting the position of the brake plate in the width direction; wherein

the adjustment mechanism has a screw hole on one widthwise side surface of the brake plate, and

the base end side of the screw is rotatably screwed in the screw hole.

14. *(New)* A buffer, comprising:

an engagement member,

a case body relatively movable with respect to the engagement member,

a slider provided in the case body and slidable in a longitudinal direction of the case body;

a buffering member rotatably attached to the slider;

a pressing member attached to the slider and having an engagement stepped portion or a cam projecting portion;

a brake plate fixed to the case body;

a first brake pad attached to the pressing member;

a second brake pad attached to the slider; and

an elastic means for moving the slider relative to the case body; wherein

the buffering member is rotated through abutment with the engagement member such that the engagement stepped portion or cam projecting portion presses the pressing member and moves along with movement of the engagement member or the case body while retaining the pressing state by sandwiching the brake plate between the first brake pad and the second brake pad by the engagement stepped portion or the cam projecting portion so as to buffer relative movement of the engagement member and the case body.